

January 19, 1976

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I think Senator Carsten misunderstands what I'm trying to do. Under his amendment and under the bill, as it now reads, you can read the last line of Section 2. It says "such entitlement, degree or completion of such course of study, such entitlement shall not be granted to more than 200 individuals in any calendar year". I have not extended the number of people, or the amount of money. I'm saying that at the same time you include these other people you include state employees in consideration for this. There's nothing in here that says I am trying to make it a big bill or a large funded bill. I think what we're doing ... we have a vehicle here for education ... for continued education and if you want to pass it for the Army Reserve then you ought to pass it for state employees. I'm trying to include it in that. That's all the amendment does. If Senator Maresh thinks that it would require another hearing I certainly wouldn't be opposed to that. If it wants to go on through the way it is I think it would be a lot better and easier to support, once you put in .... I have a bird in my throat. Did you say something, Lieutenant Governor Whelan?

PRESIDENT: No.

SENATOR BARNETT: With that I hope that you'd adopt the amendment so that we can include all the state employees along with the educational tuition ... and support so that we can show the state employees that we're concerned with them at the same time.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the motion. The question is the adoption of Senator Barnett's amendment. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 9 ayes, 23 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Now that we've got that taken care of, I certainly wasn't aware that I was the sponsor of a couple of such controversial bills. I really don't think they should be. I'm not surprised at Senator Chambers. I recognize his concerns and all that goes with his opposition. I don't believe this is an ill-advised bill; if it is, in my opinion, we have introduced, discussed and passed many ill-advised bills. That doesn't mean that they're all right either. This one, I don't believe, is. I think that is incorrectly stated.

I want to make one more point. This bill only provides help for Nebraska residents. I know there's been some concern of borderline areas taking advantage of this. It will not provide that for any outstate residents. It's only for Nebraska.

I think, Mr. President, it's been pretty well discussed. I hope that the body has made up their mind. I have no further comments. I move it be advanced.